

**Table 25. Primary reason for holding postdoc for doctoral scientists and engineers,
by selected field of doctorate: 1997**

April 2002

Reason	Field of doctorate		
	All fields	Biological and agricultural sciences	Other fields
Total postdocs (number).....	25,600	13,900	11,800
Primary reason for holding postdoc	Percent		
Additional training in field.....	20	20	21
Training out of field.....	13	15	11
Work with specific person or place.....	18	18	18
No other employment available.....	17	14	21
Postdoc generally expected for career in this field.....	24	28	19
Other reason.....	7	S	11

KEY: S = Suppressed due to too few cases (fewer than 1,000 weighted cases).

NOTES: Postdoc is a temporary position awarded in academe, industry or government primarily for gaining additional education and training in research. Numbers are rounded to nearest hundred. Percents are rounded to the whole number.
Details may not add to totals because of rounding. Survey of Doctorate Recipients includes persons who had earned a research doctorate from an U.S. institution and resided in U.S. as of April 1997.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/Division of Science Resources Statistics, 1997 Survey of Doctorate Recipients